THE FERRARA LAW FIRM

LAWYERS HELPING PEOPLE SINCE 1972

Michael A. Ferrara, Jr., Esquire+ Niki A. Trunk, Esquire

+Certified by The Supreme Court Of New Jersey as a Certified Civil Trial Attorney

+Board Certified in Civil Trial Law By The National Board of Trial Advocacy

All Attorneys Are Admitted to Practice in New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

December 8, 2006

United States District Court Eastern District of Pennsylvania Office of the Clerk of Court U.S. Courthouse 601 Market Street, Room 2609 Philadelphia, PA 19106-1797

RE: Stephen Minnis vs. Yum Brand, Inc. et al.

Dear Sir/Madam:

Enclosed please find an original and five copies of the Complaint and Civil Cover Sheet and a check for \$350.00.

Please file and return a conformed copy to us in the enclosed self addressed and stamped envelope.

Thank you for your continued courtesies.

Cordially,

THE FERRARA LAW FIRM, LLC

Michael A. Ferrara, Jr.

MAF/mlz Enclosures

cc: Stephen Minnis

William D. Marler, Esquire

601 Longwood Avenue Route 38 & Longwood Avenue Cherry Hill NJ 08002

Phone: 856.779.9500 Toll Free 877.NJLEGAL Fax: 856.661.0369

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mferrara@ferraralawfirm.com ntrunk@ferraralawfirm.com

AMOUNT

RECEIPT#

APPLYING IFP

JUDGE

MAG. JUDGE

Case 2:06-cv-05392-WK/TT Dogwyrent 15HFilledt 12/08/06 Page 2 of 15

APPENDIX H

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating he civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

•						
I. (a) PLAINTIFFS Stephen Minnis		Yum F	DEFENDANTS Yum Brands, Inc., d/b/a Taco Bell a North Carolina Corporation; Boskovich Farms, Inc., a California Corporation.			
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Montgomery County (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)			County of Residence of First Listed Defendant Montgomery County (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY) NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE LAND INVOLVED.			
() · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	ne, Address, and Telephone Number) Firm, Michael A. Ferrara, Jr., 601 Longwood Avenue, 8002		ys (If Known)			
II. BASIS OF JURIS	DICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)		SHIP OF PRINCIPAL P. ty Cases Only)	ARTIES(Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)		
J 1 U.S. Government	☐ 3 Federal Question	PTF	DEF	PTF DEF		
Plaintiff	(U.S. Government Not a Party)	Citizen of This St		porated or Principal Place		
J 2 U.S. Government Defendant	☑ 4 Diversity	Citizen of Anothe		porated and Principal Place		
	(Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)	Citizen or Subjec Foreign Count		ign Nation 🗖 6 🗖 6		
V. NATURE OF SU	IT (Place an "X" in One Box Only)	T Oleigii Count	J			
CONTRACT	TORTS	FORFEITURE/	PENALTY BANKRUI	PTCY OTHER STATUTES		
3 110 Insurance 3 120 Marine 3 130 Miller Act 3 140 Negotiable Instrument 3 150 Recovery of Overpaymer & Enforcement of Judgme 3 151 Medicare Act 3 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excl. Veterans) 3 153 Recovery of Overpaymer of Veteran's Benefits 3 160 Stockholders' Suits 3 190 Other Contract 3 195 Contract Product Liability 3 196 Franchise REAL PROPERTY 3 210 Land Condemnation 3 220 Foreclosure 3 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment 3 240 Torts to Land 3 245 Tort Product Liability 3 290 All Other Real Property	Int Slander 330 Federal Employers' Liability 1340 Marine Product Liability 371 Truth in Lendin Liability 375 Motor Vehicle Product Liability 385 Motor Vehicle Product Liability 385 Property Damag Product Liability 385 Property Damag 385 Property Damag		od & Drug lated Seizure by 21 USC 881 aws Fruck legs. onal latth FOR SOCIAL SECT or Standards gmt. Relations gmt. Reporting gmt. Relations gmt. Reporting gmt. Relations gmt. Reporting sture Act Labor Act Labor Act bor Litigation et. Inc. GRAUSC ISA SOCIAL SECT Section 862 Black Lung gmt. 863 DIWC/DIW B64 SSID Title B65 RSI (405(g)) FEDERAL TA S70 Taxes (U.S. or Defendant	3410 Antitrust		
V. ORIGIN a 1 Original Proceeding VI. CAUSE OF ACT	State Court Appellate Court Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you 28 USC 1332 Brief description of cause:	Reopened are filing (Do not ci		diversity):		
VII. REQUESTED I COMPLAINT:	Plaintiff alleges breach of warranty, product N CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTIO UNDER F.R.C.P. 23		CHEC	tion K YES only if demanded in complaint: DEMAND: ≅ Yes ☐ No		
VIII. RELATED CA IF ANY	SE(S) (See instructions): JUDGE		DOCKET NU	MBER		
DATE 12 8 06	SIGNATURE OF A	TTORNEY OF RECOR	D			
OR OFFICE USE ONLY	<i>y</i>					

APPENDIX I

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

CASE MANAGEMENT TRACK DESIGNATION FORM

Stephen Minnis,				
Plaintiff,				
	:		CIVIL ACTION	
v. YUM BRANDS, Inc., d/b/a Taco Bell a l Carolina Corporation;	: North			
BOSKOVICH FARMS, INC., a Californ Corporation,	ia			
Defendants.				
: :	NO	Э.		
In accordance with the Civil Justice Experimental plaintiff shall complete a case Management filing the complaint and serve a copy on reverse side of this form.) In the event the said designation, that defendant shall, wis serve on the plaintiff and all other parties the track to which that defendant believes	ent Track Desi all defendants at a defendant th its first appo a case manages the case shou	gnation Form in all . (See § 1:03 of the t does not agree with earance, submit to the gement track designald be assigned.	civil cases at the ting plan set forth on the h the plaintiff regard he clerk of court and lation form specifying	ne of e ling l
SELECT ONE OF THE FOLLOWIN	G CASE MA	NAGEMENT TRA	ACKS:	
(a) Habeas Corpus - Cases brought und	er 28 U.S.C. §	2241 through §225	5.	()
(b) Social Security – Cases requesting rand Human Services denying plaintif	eview of a dec f Social Secur	ision of the Secreta ity Benefits	ry of Health	()
(c) Arbitration – Cases required to be de	signated for ar	bitration under Loc	al Civil Rule 53.2.	()
(d) Asbestos – Cases involving claims for exposure to asbestos.	or personal inju	ury or property dam	age from	()
(e) Special Management — Cases that do commonly referred to as complex and the court. (See reverse side of this for management cases.)	I that need spe	cial or intense mana	agement by	()

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(f) Standard Management - Cases that do not fall into any one of the other tracks. (X)

December 8, 2006Michael A. Ferrara, Jr.DateAttorney for Plaintiff856.779.9500856.661.0369mferrara@ferraralawfirm.comTelephoneFAX NumberE-Mail Address

(Civ. 660) 10/02

APPENDIX F FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA — DESIGNATION FORM to be used by counsel to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of

assignment to appropriate calendar.						
Address of Plaintiff: 563 Swamp Pike, Schwenksville, Pennsylvania 19473						
Address of Defendant: Yum Brand, Inc., North Carolina and Boskovich Farms, Inc., Oxnard, California						
Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction: Taco Bell, East Philadelphia Avenue, Gilbertsville, Pennsylvania (Use Reverse Side For Additional Space)						
Does this civil action involve a nongovernmental corporate party with any parent corporation	and any publicly held corporation owning 10% or more of its stock?					
(Attach two copies of the Disclosure Statement Form in accordance with Fed.R.Civ.P. 7.10	(a)) _ Yes□ No⊠					
Does this case involve multidistrict litigation possibilities? RELATED CASE, IF ANY:	Yes□ No⊠					
Case Number:	Date Terminated:					
Civil cases are deemed related when yes is answered to any of the following questions:						
 Is this case related to property included in an earlier numbered suit pending or within one Does this case involve the same issue of fact or grow out of the same transaction as a prior action in this court? 	Yes□ No□					
3. Does this case involve the validity or infringement of a patent already in suit or any earlie terminated action in this court?	er numbered case pending or within one year previously ${ m Yes}\square{ m No}\square$					
CIVIL: (Place in ONE CATEGORY ONLY) A. Federal Question Cases: 1. Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts 2. FELA 3. Jones Act-Personal Injury 4. Antitrust 5. Patent 6. Labor-Management Relations 7. Civil Rights 8. Habeas Corpus 9. Securities Act(s) Cases 10. Social Security Review Cases 11. All other Federal Question Cases (Please specify)	 B. Diversity Jurisdiction Cases: 1. ☐ Insurance Contract and Other Contracts 2. ☐ Airplane Personal Injury 3. ☐ Assault, Defamation 4. ☐ Marine Personal Injury 5. ☐ Motor Vehicle Personal Injury 6. ☐ Other Personal Injury (Please specify) 7. ☒ Products Liability 8. ☐ Products Liability — Asbestos 9. ☐ All other Diversity Cases (Please specify) 					
ARBITRATION CER	TIFICATION					
Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 53.2, Section 3(c)(2), that to the best of my knowledge	counsel of record do hereby certify:					
exceed the sum of \$ 150,000.00 exclusive of interest and costs; Relief other than monetary damages is sought. DATE: 12 8 06 Attorney-at-Law	0459 Attorney I.D.#					
NOTE: A trial de novo will be a trial by jury only if the	here has been compliance with F.R.C.P. 38.					
I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case is not related to any case now pending or except as noted above. DATE: 12 8 66 CIV. 609 (4/03)	within one year previously terminated action in this court OUGO Attorney I.D.#					

MARLER CLARK, L.L.P., P.S.

William D. Marler, Esquire 701 Fifth Avenue, Suite 6600 Seattle, WA 98104

Telephone: 206.346.1890 Facsimile: 206.346.1898 bmarler@marlerclark.com

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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYVLANIA

STEPHEN MINNIS,	
Plaintiff,	CIVIL ACTION NO.:
v.	
YUM BRANDS, Inc., d/b/a Taco Bell a North Carolina Corporation;	
BOSKOVICH FARMS, INC., a California Corporation,	
Defendant.	

COMPLAINT IN CIVIL ACTION

Stephen Minnis, residing at 563 Swamp Pike, Schwenksville, Pennsylvania says:

MARLER CLARK, L.L.P., P.S.

William D. Marler, Esquire 701 Fifth Avenue, Suite 6600 Seattle, WA 98104

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Facsimile: 856.661.0369 mferrara@ferraralawfirm.com

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYVLANIA

STEPHEN MINNIS,	
Plaintiff,	CIVIL ACTION NO.:
v.	
YUM BRANDS, Inc., d/b/a Taco Bell a North Carolina Corporation;	
BOSKOVICH FARMS, INC., a California Corporatin,	
Defendant.	

COMPLAINT IN CIVIL ACTION

Stephen Minnis, residing at 563 Swamp Pike, Schwenksville, Pennsylvania says:

PARTIES

- 1. The Defendant YUM BRANDS INC. d/b/a Taco Bell (hereinafter referred to as "Taco Bell"), is a North Carolina corporation with its principal place of business in Kentucky. The defendant Taco Bell owned and operated the Taco Bell restaurant located on East Philadelphia Avenue in Gilbertsville, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. The defendant Taco Bell, at all times material hereto, was carrying on its ordinary course of business of the manufacture, preparation, service and sale of food to the restaurant customers at that location in Montgomery County.
- 2. The Defendant BOSKOVICH FARMS, INC., is a California Corporation with a principal place of business in Oxnard, California. The defendant BOSKOVICH FARMS, INC., at all times material hereto was carrying on in its ordinary course of business of the growing, shipping, wholesaling and brokerage of green onions to restaurant customers in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, and elsewhere.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 3. Plaintiff, Stephen Minnis, at all times material hereto, was and remains a resident of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.
- 4. This Court has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1332, diversity of citizenship, because Stephen Minnis is a resident of Pennsylvania, and the defendants principal places of business are outside of Pennsylvania, and the amount in controversy exceeds SEVENTY FIVE THOUSAND (\$75,000.00) Dollars, exclusive of interest and costs.

5. Venue is proper in this district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1391 because the plaintiff resides in this district, and the defendants engaged in substantial business in this district.

FACTS

- 6. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, to date 58 cases of *E. coli* O157:H7 illnesses have been reported that are associated with green onions manufactured and sold by the defendants. The known victims are from 6 states: New York (19), New Jersey (28), Pennsylvania (8), Delaware (1), South Carolina (1), and Utah (1). Many other cases of *E. coli* O157:H7 infection are currently under investigation by state public health officials.
- 7. Outbreaks of foodborne diseases associated with green onions are not a new phenomenon. In fact, green onions sourced from the defendant Boskovich Farms were implicated in the 2003 hepatitis A outbreak that sickened over 600 people, killing four, at a Chi Chi's Mexican restaurant in Beaver, Pennsylvania; similarly, green onions from the defendant Taco Bell's restaurants were implicated in a 2000 hepatitis A outbreak in Florida, Kentucky, and Nevada that sickened dozens of people.
- 8. On November 25, 2006, the plaintiff's wife, Chandradaye Minnis, purchased food for the plaintiff, herself, and the plaintiff's brother at the Taco Bell located on East Philadelphia Avenue in Gilbertsville, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. The food that the plaintiff, Stephen Minnis, consumed on November 25, 2006 from Taco Bell was contaminated with *E. coli* O157:H7.

- 9. The plaintiff's gastrointestinal illness began in the early morning hours of November 28, 2006. Symptoms consisted of nausea, fatigue, and abdominal cramps. Violent bouts of diarrhea began the same day, and soon the bouts of diarrhea contained blood.
- 10. Symptoms continued and worsened over the course of the next several days. On December 3, 2006, the plaintiff's wife drove him to the emergency department at Pottstown Memorial Hospital, where plaintiff was treated with intravenous fluids and muscle relaxants to address the painful cramps.
- 11. Symptoms continued, and the plaintiff was forced back to the emergency department at Pottstown Memorial Hospital on December 5, 2006. Again the plaintiff received intravenous fluids and morphine. Plaintiff delivered a stool sample, and he underwent a series of tests, including a CT scan of the abdomen. He was discharged the morning of December 6, 2006.
- 12. Plaintiff remains ill with gastrointestinal symptoms, including abdominal cramps, diarrhea, and fatigue. Plaintiff's stool test ultimately returned positive for *E. coli* O157:H7, and he has had follow-up medical attention with his primary physician.

COUNT ONE

BREACH OF WARRANTY

13. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and makes a part of this Count each and every foregoing paragraph of this Complaint.

- 14. The defendants are manufacturers, distributors, and sellers of an adulterated food product, and the adulterated food product reached the plaintiff without substantial change from the condition in which it was sold by the defendant.
- 15. The defendants are subject to liability to the plaintiff for their breach of express and implied warranties made with respect to the contaminated food product sold to plaintiff, including the implied warranties of merchantability and of fitness for a particular use. Specifically, the defendants expressly warranted, through their sale of food to the public, and by the statements and conduct of their employees and agents, that the food sold to the plaintiff was fit for human consumption, and not otherwise adulterated or injurious to health.
- 16. The plaintiff alleges that the food sold by the defendants and consumed by plaintiff, which was contaminated with *E. coli* O157:H7 and related filth and adulteration, would not pass without exception in the trade, and was thus in breach of the implied warranty of merchantability.
- 17. The plaintiff further alleges that the contaminated food sold by the defendants and consumed by the plaintiff was not fit for the uses and purposes intended by the plaintiff or the defendants, *i.e.*, human consumption, and that this product was therefore in breach of the implied warranty of fitness for its intended use.
- 18. As a direct and proximate result of the breaches of warranty by defendants and their agents, servants, and/or employees, plaintiff suffered the injuries, damages, and losses set forth more fully above.

COUNT TWO

STRICT LIABILITY

- 19. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and makes a part of this Count each and every foregoing paragraph of this Complaint.
- 20. The defendants owed a duty to the plaintiff to manufacture and sell food that was not adulterated, was fit for human consumption, was reasonably safe in construction, and was free of pathogenic viruses or other substances injurious to human health. The defendants breached this duty.
- 21. The defendants owed a duty to the plaintiff to provide adequate warnings about the non-obvious danger of their food products, including warnings and instructions indicating that the food might contain pathogenic viruses, including *E. coli* O157:H7. The defendants breached this duty.
- 22. The defendants owed a duty to the plaintiff to prepare, serve, and sell food that was fit for human consumption, and that was safe to the extent contemplated by a reasonable and ordinary consumer. The defendants breached this duty.
- 23. Because the food that the plaintiff purchased and consumed was adulterated, not fit for human consumption, not reasonably safe in design and construction, lacked adequate warnings and instructions, and was unsafe to an extent beyond that contemplated by the ordinary consumer, the defendants are liable to the plaintiff for the harm proximately caused to the plaintiff by the defendants' manufacture and sale of contaminated and adulterated food products, and as such the defendants are strictly liable to the plaintiff for such harm, injuries, damages, and losses set forth more fully above.

24. As a direct and proximate result of the conduct by defendants and their agents, servants, and/or employees, plaintiff suffered the injuries, damages, and losses set forth more fully above.

COUNT THREE

NEGLIGENCE

- 25. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and makes a part of this Count each and every foregoing paragraph of this Complaint.
- 26. The defendants had a duty to comply with all statutory and regulatory provisions that pertained or applied to the manufacture, distribution, storage, labeling, and sale of the food in their retail food establishments, including the applicable provisions of the federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, and similar Pennsylvania food and public health statutes, including without limitation the provisions of the Food Act as 31 Pa. C.S. § 20.3, all of which prohibit the manufacture and sale of any food that is adulterated or otherwise injurious to health.
- 27. The food that defendants manufactured and sold, and that the plaintiff eventually consumed, was adulterated within the meaning of the federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act and similar Pennsylvania statutes because it contained a deleterious substance that rendered it injurious to health, *i.e.*, *E. coli* O157:H7 bacteria.
- 28. The defendants violated federal, state, and local food safety regulations by their manufacture and sale of adulterated food. These federal, state, and local food safety regulations are applicable here, and establish a positive and definite standard of care in the manufacture and sale of food. The violation of these regulations constitutes negligence.

- 29. The plaintiff is in the class of persons intended to be protected by these statutes and regulations, and plaintiff was injured as the direct and proximate result of the defendants' violation of applicable federal, state, and local food safety regulations.
- 30. The defendants were negligent in the manufacture, distribution, and sale of a food product that was adulterated with *E. coli* O157:H7, not fit for human consumption, and not reasonably safe because it failed to provide adequate warnings or instructions.
- 31. Defendants were also negligent in one or more of the following:
 - a. in failing to use supplies and raw materials in producing their food that were in compliance with applicable federal, state, and local laws, ordinances and regulations;
 - b. in failing to use supplies and raw materials in producing their food that were from reliable sources;
 - c. in failing to use supplies and raw materials in producing their food that were clean, wholesome, free from adulteration, and fit for human consumption;
 - d. in negligently selecting or retaining their suppliers, or other agents or subcontractors;
 - e. in failing to adequately supervise their suppliers, or other agents or subcontractors or failing to provide them with adequate standards;
 - f. in failing to properly supervise, train, discipline and monitor their employees, or the employees of their agents or subcontractors, engaged in the preparation and sale of its food products, to ensure compliance with the defendant's operating standards or with all applicable health regulations; and
 - g. in failing to properly supervise, train, and monitor employees engaged in the manufacture, preparation, and delivery of the food product ultimately sold to the public and plaintiff.

32. As a direct and proximate result of the conduct of defendants and their agents, servants, and/or employees, plaintiff suffered the injuries, damages, and losses set forth more fully above.

WHEREFORE, as to each Count, the plaintiff requests judgment against the defendants, jointly and severally, for compensatory damages together with costs and disbursements of this action, and such other relief as appears reasonable and just.

DEMAND FOR TRIAL BY JURY

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Plaintiff demands a trial by jury of up to twelve for limited purposes, pursuant to the Rule of Court.

THE FERRARA LAW FIRM, LLC

601 Longwood Avenue

Cherry Hill, New Jersey 08002

Telephone:

856.779.9500

Attorney for Plaintiff

Bv:

Michael A. Ferrara, Jr.

MARLER CLARK, LLP, PS

William D. Marler, Esquire 701 Fifth Avenue, Suite 6600 Seattle, Washington 98104 Telephone 206.346.1890

Attorney for Plaintiff